Gains Accrued From Mobilizationa of Armed Forces

774. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH:

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the gains which accured to the country from mobilization of armed forces since the beginning of the current year; and

(b) the additional expenditure incurred on this account in 2001-2002 and likely extra expenditure during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) :(a) and (b) The mobilization exerted immense military pressure on Pakistan and forced the Pakistan President to denounce support to 'jihad' through his speeches of 12th January and 27th May 2002. Some of the terrorist organizations in Pakistan were banned, some terrorists camps in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir were closed, their accounts frozen and leaders arrested. Moreover, the infiltration this year has come down considerably compared to the figures of the corresponding period of the previous year. The election to the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was sucessfully conducted in September and October, 2002 despite terrorist violence and intimidation.

In addition, the mobilization focussed the attention of the international community on Pakistan as state sponsoring terrorism, thereby pressurizing Pakistan to shun cross border terrorism.

The experience gained during the mobilization has enabled the Army to reassess and revalidate its operational plans and procedures.

The expenditure can be assessed only after the redeployment is complete.

Pull out of Army from I ndo-Pak Border

775. SHRI MANOJBHATTACHARYA:

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the compelling reasons which led to the pull out of the army from the Indo-Pak Border;

(b) whether the decision was taken at the political level without adequate and meaningful consultation with the concerned defence authorities; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERN ANDES) : (a)to(c) The decision of the Government on strategic relocation of the Armed Forces on the Indo-Pak border was taken in the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security held on 16th October, 2002. After taking into account the improvement in the overall security situation and the security interest of the country, the Government decided on relocation of the armed forces without any compromise to our capacity to respond aggressively and decisively to meet any emergency and without lowering the vigil in Jammu and Kashmir.

Appointment of Generals in Indian Army

776. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Army has requested the Government to appoint 432 Generals; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERN ANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Purchase of L-159 Aircraft

777. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Government has decided to purchase L-159 aircraft; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons to seiect L-159 aircraft over Hawks ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.